

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /135 W

----- 054786

R 171450Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2650

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MZ

SUBJECT: PRISONS: DGS IN, POLITICAL PRISONERS OUT,
CRIMINALS RIOTING

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 457

1. DGS MEN ARRESTED IN MOZAMBIQUE-WIDE ROUNDUP (REFTEL)
REMAIN INCARCERATED; NO FIRM NUMBERS AVAILABLE, BUT PRESS
REPORTS NOW REFER TO 500. IN COMMUNIQUE RELEASED JUNE 14,
MILITARY HIGH COMMAND IN EFFECT CANCELLED JUNE 17 DEADLINE
FOR DENUNCIATIONS, AND SAID ACCUSATIONS COULD BE MADE ORALLY
OR IN WRITING BY ANYONE KNOWING ABOUT ATROCITIES, NOT JUST
BY VICTIMS. ON JUNE 15 A PRIVATE HELICOPTER FLYING OVER
MACHAVA PRISON NEAR LOURENCO MARQUES WAS TWICE FIRED ON
AND HIT BY NERVOUS GUARDS PRESUMABLY FEARING A RESCUE
ATTEMPT; NOBODY HURT. PRESS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST DGS CON-
TINUE; DEMOCRAT-SPONSORED COMMISSION INVESTIGATING DGS
CRIMES CLAIMS SOME 900 PRISONERS KILLED OVER PAST YEARS,
MOSTLY IN IBO ISLAND PRISON.

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WM SO FAR AS WE KNOW ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS HAVE BEEN
RELEASED, INCLUDING SOME 600 BEING HELD IN CABO DELGADO
DISTRICT (MOSTLY AT IBO ISLAND PRISON). WE PRESUME THAT
AMNESTIES OF SOME ORDINARY CRIMINALS, SUCH AS ARE BEING

GRANTED IN PORTUGAL, WILL ALSO TAKE PLACE HERE.

3. PRISONERS IN MACHAVA CENTRAL JAIL IN LOURENCO MARQUES
MUTINIED BRIEFLY JUNE 6, BUT WERE CALMED DOWN AND ON JUNE 11
SOME 550 OF THE 800 MEN BEING HELD THERE WERE ALLOWED TO
PRESENT COMPLAINTS (ABOUT FOOD, MEDICAL TREATMENT, PRISONERS
RIGHTS, AND OTHER CONDITIONS) TO PUBLIC PROSECUTOR. A MORE
SERIOUS RIOT BROKE OUT IN BEIRA PRISON JUNE 13, WHEN PRI-
SONERS SET FIRES, DESTROYED PROPERTY, AND THREW PROJECTILES
OUT OF WINDOWS AT GUARDS. TROUBLE WAS ENDED WHEN ARMY
REPRESENTATIVES CALLED FOR. PRISONERS COMPLAINED ABOUT
PRISON CONDITIONS AND CERTAIN PRISON OFFICIALS; HOWEVER,
ANGRY CROWDS WATCHING RIOT FROM STREETS BLAMED NOTICIAS DA
BEIRA ARTICLES ON PRISON CONDITIONS AS HAVING INCITED RIOT.
REED

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